



# Phillips 66 Billings Hazardous Waste Permit Modification

## Background

Phillips 66 Company is a petroleum refinery that began operating in 1949. Historical refinery activities have resulted in contaminated soil and groundwater. The Montana Hazardous Waste Act requires Phillips 66 Company to have a hazardous waste permit to cleanup releases of hazardous waste and hazardous constituents.

The hazardous waste permit modification is necessary to approve proposed actions to clean-up soil and groundwater contamination. DEQ invites the public to review and comment on the permit modification and associated documents.

## Why is the permit being modified?

In 2002, DEQ selected cleanup activities to address both on-site and off-site contamination. The cleanup activities focused on free product and groundwater contamination. Free product is petroleum contamination that is a separate material that does not dissolve in water (it is also called non-aqueous phase liquid). Clean-up activities have produced substantial improvements to the soil and ground water; however, additional work is needed at the refinery.

DEQ requested a corrective measures study to assess cleanup activities at four areas of the refinery that were not included in the 2002 selection. In November 2021, Phillips 66 Company submitted a corrective measures study report and proposed a cleanup remedy for those areas. Phillips 66 Company's submittal also included a request to change the site's primary groundwater remedy from pumping and treating groundwater to using sparging technologies. Sparging is a technology where air, oxygen, and/or other constituents are introduced into the water table to stimulate the breakdown of contamination by microorganisms.

The modification does not include any changes to the way the Billings refinery manages hazardous waste. Phillips 66 Company will continue to be required to perform previously approved cleanup activities at the refinery.

## How do I comment on proposed cleanup work?

The public can participate in the permit modification process by reviewing and commenting on the draft permit modification, including a remedy selection document called a Statement of Basis and/or the draft Environmental Assessment. These documents are available on DEQ's website at: <https://deq.mt.gov/public/hazwaste-public> and at DEQ's main office located at: Montana Department of Environmental Quality, 1520 E. 6th Avenue, Helena, Montana (406-444-5300).

Office review hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

**The comment period is from July 29, 2022 through September 13, 2022.**

Mail comments to:  
Denise A. Kirkpatrick  
DEQ Waste and Underground Tank Management Bureau  
P.O. Box 200901  
Helena, MT 59620-0901

Email comments to: [DEQhazwaste@mt.gov](mailto:DEQhazwaste@mt.gov). Please type in the subject line: Phillips Modification.

If there is a significant degree of public interest, a public hearing will be held. Written requests for a public hearing must be submitted by September 13, 2022. A request for a public hearing must state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing.

## What happens after the public comment period?

DEQ reviews the comments and issues a written response. If any changes are made to the proposed permit modification, including the Statement of Basis, the response will explain the changes. A final environmental assessment will be issued.

Next, DEQ will make their final decision to issue or deny the permit. Notice will be given to Phillips 66 Company and to each person who submitted written comments or requested a notice of the decision. The final decision is effective 30 days after DEQ's notice of the decision (unless a later date is specified or a public hearing is requested). If no comments are received, the final permit is effective immediately upon notice of DEQ's final decision.

## Who do I contact if I want to know more?

If you need further information, please contact Denise A. Kirkpatrick at the above address, phone (406) 444-3983, or email: [dkirkpatrick@mt.gov](mailto:dkirkpatrick@mt.gov)

Dated July 29, 2022